



R. I. Governor's Commission on Disabilities

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Doreen McConaghy Chair Bob Cooper, Executive Secretary, Editor

Legislative Letter

Thursday, January 17, 2002 Page 1 of 13

Bill Assignments to Committees

Location:	House Corporations Committee	Room: 203
Committee Chairperson: Brian Patrick Kennedy		
Bill's Number: 02-H 6674 Title: Health Care		
Sponsor: Rep. Voccola		

Location:

House Finance Committee

Room: 035

Committee Chairperson: Antonio J. Pires

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 CA Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Child Advocate

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Child Advocate, including:
reducing services by \$700 in state funds
increasing services by \$16,487 in federal funds

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 CDHH Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Commission on the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, including reducing services by \$61,440 in state funds.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 CHR Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Human Rights Commission

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Commission on Human Rights, including:
reducing services by \$55,103 in state funds and \$10,000 in federal funds.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 DBR Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Business Regulation

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Business Regulation, including: reducing Insurance Regulation by \$74,057.

Amended or Substitute

Legislative Letter

Thursday, January 17, 2002 Page 3 of 13

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 DCYF Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Children, Youth and Families

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department for Children, Youth and Families, including:
eliminating at Groden Center - Mt. Hope renovation funds - \$79,660
reducing at Spurwink/RI renovation funds by \$16,077
reducing children's behavioral health services by \$174,182 in state funds
adding children's behavioral health services by \$812,681 in federal funds.
reducing the # of Full Time Equivalent Employees by 7.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 DDC Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Developmental Disabilities Council

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Developmental Disabilities Council, including: increasing services by \$11,493.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 01 DEA Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Elderly Affairs

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Elderly Affairs, including:
reducing elderly/disabled transportation by \$205,463
increasing elder services by \$127,290 in state funds and \$867,604 in federal funds
increasing pharmaceutical assistance by \$1,632,147
reducing the Safety and Care of the Elderly Commission by \$500

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Human Services
01 DHS**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Human Services, including:
eliminating renovation funds to the Veterans' Home Roof - \$60,000
increasing Veterans Affairs by \$742,127 in state funds; \$1,006,701 in federal funds; and \$1,000,520 in restricted receipts
increasing Health Care Management Services by \$208,715 in state funds and \$1,522,688 in federal funds
increasing Medical Benefits by \$12,033,953 in state funds and \$11,355,882 in federal funds
increasing SSI benefits by \$599,662
increasing GPA benefits by \$8,013
increasing state Food Stamps for Legal Immigrants by \$72,486.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Labor and Training
01 DL&T**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Labor and Training, including:
adding to Workers Compensation by \$304,188
adding to Temporary Disability Insurance Fund by \$9,974,168
reducing Injured Workers Services by \$345,203.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Administration
01 DoA**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Administration, including:
reducing Temporary Disability Insurance Funds (in Taxation) by \$58,893
reducing Housing Resources Commission by eliminating \$5,001,237
[including the funds for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program to build 50 residential units for people with disabilities and 40 units for families see H 6626 - alternative funding]

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Health
01 DoH**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Health, including:
reducing the Trauma Registry by \$58,512
increasing family health by \$376,033
funding a Child Safety program at \$20,000
reducing Disease Prevention and Control by \$172,971 in state funds
increasing Disease Prevention and Control by \$164,825 in federal funds.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Education
01 Ed**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Education, including:
reducing renovations at the School for the Deaf by \$235,728
reducing School for the Deaf services by \$503,052 in state funds
increasing School for the Deaf services by \$298,873 in federal funds.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Disabilities
01 GCD Commission**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Governor's Commission on
Disabilities, including:
reducing services by \$1,188 in state funds and \$2,909 in federal funds
increasing services by \$36,232 in restricted receipts.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: General Treasurer
01 GT**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the General Treasurer, including
increasing Temporary Disability Insurance Fund by \$36,244.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Mental Health Advocate
01 MHA**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Mental Health Advocate, including:
reducing services by \$11,847.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Mental Health,
01 MHRH Retardation & Hospital**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would revise the current year's budget for the Department of Mental Health, Retardation and Hospitals, including:
increasing Central Management by \$269,539
reducing renovation of hospital facilities by \$483,906
increasing of hospital and community system support by \$1,094,578
reducing developmental disabilities services by \$1,696,912 in state funds and \$1,407,756 in federal funds
increasing developmental disabilities services by \$260,990 from the Pirovano Trust
reducing mental health services by \$31,873 in state funds and \$148,269 in federal funds
reducing renovations at Zambarano Hospital by \$304,942
increasing hospital and community rehabilitation services by \$1,158,695 in state funds and \$951,611 in federal funds
increasing renovations of substance abuse facilities by \$13,000
increasing substance abuse services by \$464,231 in state funds and \$529,074 in federal funds
eliminating the Providence Community Action project - \$213,000.

Amended or Substitute

**Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art Title: Revised Appropriations '02: Licensing of Health
03 Care Facilities**

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would increase the licensing fees paid by hospitals from \$3,000 to \$13,00 per facility and from \$15 to \$90 per bed and by assisted living facilities from \$250 per licensee and \$22.50 per licensed bed to \$50 per licensed bed.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 04 **Title:** Revised Appropriations '02: Certification of Health Plans

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would allow the Department of Health to charge health care insurers for the costs associated with consumer disclosure services.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6658 Art 12 **Title:** Revised Appropriations '02: Health Insurance Providers

Sponsor: Rep. Watson

Requested by Governor Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would require insurers providing coverage for dependent children to include coverage for medically necessary early intervention services and children's intensive services. Would limit the benefit to \$5,000 per year, but not allow the coverage to be counted against any maximum benefit. The coverage would be subject to usually co-payments or deductibles. The State Early Intervention Program would pay for any co-payments or deductibles and non-medically necessary services, it currently provides through the Early Intervention Program.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6677 **Title:** Cancer Patients - Transportation Services

Sponsor: Rep. Giannini Reps. Lanzi, Crowley, San Bento

Requested by Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would require the director of health to provide transportation services to indigent cancer patients for the purpose of receiving treatment.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6694 **Title:** Cancer Treatment Fund

Sponsor: Rep. Giannini Reps. Murphy, Lanzi, Crowley, & San Bento

Requested by Introduced On 1/9/02

Description: Would establish a fund to assist uninsured and underinsured persons in paying for cancer treatment drugs.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6699 **Title:** Kidney Disease Treatment Center of Tiverton

Sponsor: Rep. Shavers Reps. Crowley, Murphy, & Gallison

Requested by Introduced On

Description: Would authorize the General Assembly to annually appropriate funds to transport patients to and from the Artificial Kidney Center of Tiverton on official state holidays.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6730

Title: Payment of Taxes and Fees by Credit Card

Sponsor: Rep. Bierman

Reps. Fluery, Mumford, Socott, Trillo

Requested by

Introduced On

1/10/02

Description: Would authorize the payment of taxes and fees owed to state or local government by credit cards and make credit card information confidential.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6763

Title: Fair Market Drug Pricing

Sponsor: Rep. Moura

Reps. Fleury, Anguilla, Kilmartin & Long

Requested by

Introduced On

1/16/02

Description: Would establish a state pharmaceutical assistance program to negotiate supplemental rebates or discount prices from drug manufacturers.

Amended or Substitute

Location:

House Health, Education, & Welfare Committee

Room: 135

Committee Chairperson:

Bambilyn Breece Cambio

Bill's Number: 02-H 6772

Title: Pharmacy

Sponsor: Rep. Picard

Requested by

Introduced On

1/16/02

Description: Would require that all mail order pharmaceuticals be signed for by a person at least 17 years old.

Amended or Substitute

Location:

House Judiciary Committee

Room: 205

Committee Chairperson:

Robert E. Flaherty

Bill's Number: 02-6698

Title: Delinquent and Dependant Children

Sponsor: Rep. Carter

Reps. George, Brien & Benson

Requested by

Introduced On

1/9/02

Description: Would require juvenile records of juveniles adjudicated delinquent of a serious violent felony to be made available to state, education and law enforcement authorities.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6733

Title: Parental Right to Know

Sponsor: Rep. Palumbo

Reps. Corvese & Reilly

Requested by

Introduced On

1/10/02

Description: Would provide that any person or entity in possession of information, records or documents relating to a minor child shall provide access to that information to the minor's parent or legal guardian, upon request.

Amended or Substitute

Legislative Letter

Thursday, January 17, 2002 Page 9 of 13

Location:	House Labor Committee	Room: 135
Committee Chairperson:	Joseph L. Faria	

Bill's Number: 02-H 6652 Title: Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action

Sponsor: Rep. Faria

Requested by Introduced On 1/8/02

Description: Would prohibit the state from doing business with any employer who diminished or reduced an employee's wage or benefits or who has engages in any discriminatory practices.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-H 6736 Title: Genetic Testing - Employment Discrimination and Confidentiality

Sponsor: Rep. Henseler Reps. Lewiss, Mumford, Giannini & Gallison

Requested by Introduced On 1/10/02

Description: Would prohibit employers and employment agencies from denying employment and prohibit licensing agencies from denying occupational licenses based on a refusal to submit to genetic testing by the employee or applicant. It would also provide confidentiality of genetic information with certain exceptions. Replaces the existing law prohibiting genetic testing as a condition of employment.

Amended or Substitute

Location:	Joint Committee on Veterans Affairs	Room:
Committee Chairperson:	Lawrence J. Ferguson	

Bill's Number: 02-H 6731 Title: Disabled American Veterans - Educational Benefits

Sponsor: Rep. Lanzi Reps. Winfield, and Benson

Requested by Introduced On 1/10/02

Description: Would grant enrollment in higher education classes to disabled veterans (5 per class + others on a space available basis).

Amended or Substitute

Location:	Senate Corporations Committee	Room: 212
Committee Chairperson:	John A. Celona	

Bill's Number: 02-S 2103 Title: Health Care Assistance

Sponsor: Sen. Iglizzi Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by Introduced On 1/15/02

Description: Would establish an interim health care service for individuals who have been approved for SSI benefits and are awaiting Medicare benefits for a disability.

Amended or Substitute

Legislative Letter

Thursday, January 17, 2002 Page 10 of 13

Bill's Number: 02-S 2104

Title: Taxation - Person s who are Partially to Totally Disabled

Sponsor: Sen. Igliazzi

Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would expand the local property tax exemption presently afforded to totally disabled persons to persons who are partially disabled and unable to work, with the amount of the exemption equal to the amount of the disability.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2113

Title: State Affairs and Government

Sponsor: Sen. Igliazzi

Sens. Felag, Tassoni & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would establish within the Dept. of Elderly Affairs a program to pay for extraordinary health care expenses.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2114

Title: Health Care Assistance

Sponsor: Sen. Igliazzi

Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would establish an interim health care service for individuals who have been approved for SSDI benefits and are awaiting Medicare benefits for a disability.

Amended or Substitute

Location:

Senate Finance Committee

Room: 211

Committee Chairperson: Frank T. Caprio

Bill's Number: 02-S 2037

Title: Motor Fuel Tax

Sponsor: Sen. Hunter

Sens. Celona, Montalbano & Connors

Requested by

Introduced On

1/2/02

Description: Would provide \$.01 per gallon of the "gasoline tax" to finance the maintenance and reconstruction of sidewalks and curbing along state roads and highways.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2039

Title: Taxation - Personal Income Tax

Sponsor: Sen. Hunter

Sens. Issa & Cote

Requested by

Introduced On

1/2/02

Description: Would provide for long-term care insurance tax credits.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2092

Title: Taxation - Persons who are Visually Impaired

Sponsor: Sen. Igliazzi

Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would expand the local property tax exemption to visually impaired persons with the amount of exemption equal to the amount of visual impairment.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2099

Title: Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly

Sponsor: Sen. Igilozzi

Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would make extend eligibility for assistance to a single or married resident (65 yrs old or older) of the state whose total expenditures for prescription medicines in the previous year exceeded 10% of the persons household income.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2116

Title: Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly

Sponsor: Sen. Igliazzi

Sens. Tassoni, Felag, & Graziano

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would raise the eligibility levels for the RIPAE program for single persons 65 or older to \$20,000 (for the 40% co-pay); \$25,000 (for the 70% co-pay) and \$40,000 (for the 85% co-pay) and for married persons to \$25,000 (40%); \$30,000 (70%); and \$45,000 (85%).

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2130

Title: School and Municipal Playground Safety

Sponsor: Sen. Blais

Requested by

Introduced On

1/15/02

Description: Would increase the State School Housing Aid to local school districts and provide grants to municipalities for playgrounds renovations projects that eliminate hazards and bring the playground into compliance with the State Health and Environmental Safety Standards for Recreational Facilities.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2136

Title: Public Access Defibrillation

Sponsor: Sen. Polisena

Sens. Graziano, McDonald & Daminani

Requested by

Introduced On

1/16/02

Description: Would provide funds, through the Dept. of Health to purchase and distribute automated external defibrillators to municipally operated senior citizen centers and provide training in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automated external defibrillator use.

Amended or Substitute

Bill's Number: 02-S 2138

Title: Pharmaceutical Assistance to the Elderly

Sponsor: Sen. Felag

Sens. Walton, Issa, McBurney, & Paiva-Weed

Requested by

Introduced On

1/16/02

Description: Would raise the eligibility levels for the RIPAE program for single persons 65 or older to \$20,000 (for the 40% co-pay); \$25,000 (for the 70% co-pay) and \$38,000 (for the 85% co-pay) and for married persons to \$25,000 (40%); \$30,000 (70%); and \$43,000 (85%).

Amended or Substitute

Legislative Letter

Thursday, January 17, 2002 Page 12 of 13

Location:	Senate Judiciary Committee	Room: 313
Committee Chairperson: Joseph A. Montalbano		
Bill's Number: 02-S 2025 Title: Health Care Power of Attorney		
Sponsor: Sen. Cicilline		
Requested by		Introduced On 1/2/02
Description: Would establish a durable health care power of attorney form, for individuals under guardianship.		
Amended or Substitute		
Location:	Senate Special Legislation Committee	Room: Sen. Lounge
Committee Chairperson: Maryellen Goodwin		
Bill's Number: 02-S 2029 Title: Resolution - Constitutional Amendment - Initiative and Referendum		
Sponsor: Sen. Cote		Sens. Lenihan, Raptakis, Breene & Bates
Requested by		Introduced On 1/2/02
Description: Would authorize a voter referendum to amend the RI Constitutions to establish a voter initiative process for voters to initial proposed legislation. (companion bill S 2030)		
Amended or Substitute		
Bill's Number: 02-S 2030 Title: Initiative and Referendum		
Sponsor: Sen. Cote		Sens. Lenihan, Reptakis, Breene, & Bates
Requested by		Introduced On 1/2/02
Description: Provides a detailed procedure for voter initiative and referendum proposal, and only takes effect upon ratification of a constitutional amendment (see S 2029).		
Amended or Substitute		

Committee Hearings

Location:	House Finance Committee	Room: 035
Committee Chairperson: Antonio J. Pires		
Hearing/Vote on: 1/15 Rise rm 35		
Bill's Number: 02-H 6626 Title: Resolution - Financing of Housing Programs		
Sponsors: Rep. Fox		Reps. Fleury, Callahan, Amends: Story & Benson
Description: Authorizes the Governor and Director of Administration to enter into a financial obligation, guarantee or other agreement for the financing of \$10.38 million for the Neighborhood Opportunities Program in FY 2002 & 03. [Neighborhood Opportunities - plans to build 100 residential units for low income families and people with disabilities, each year for 10 years]		
Amended or Substitute:		

Committee Recommendations / House Senate Calendar

Governor's Action

For daily updates on the status of bills, committee hearings, etc. call the General Assembly's Legislative Hot Line 751-8833 (v), 222-2466 (tty) or Computer Bulletin Board, 222-2910 or check their website at [//www.rilin.state.ri.us](http://www.rilin.state.ri.us) (which also has complete text of all

Notices of meetings of the Commission's Legislation Committee, minutes of prior meetings, and copies of the Commission's Legislative Package are available on our website at [//www.gcd.state.ri.us](http://www.gcd.state.ri.us)

Legislative Letter is a weekly listing of: bills filed in the RI General Assembly; committee hearings; and actions by the House and Senate, relating to people with disabilities which is available by subscription for \$20 annually or for \$25 the Legislative letter and all Commission reports. The Legislative Letter and Commission Reports are available in standard print, large print, audiocassette, computer diskette, Braille or e-mail.

The Commission also have a free E-mail Legislative Alert Service, e-mailing notices of important legislative activity at the State House or in Washington and local distribution of e-mail messages from the National Council on Disability, American Association of People with Disabilities, National Organization on Disability and other sources. To sign up just send an e-mail to disabilities@gcd.state.ri.us